

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes. For rural development there are various schemes. It is a small amount and we are considering as to how best the money could be utilised. It was on the advice of the Heads of Departments that this distribution was made.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether the decision arrived at in consultation with the Heads of Departments by the late Minister is faithfully kept up.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): As I told you, except in the matter of grants being changed into loans. This is setting a very bad example of simply giving grants. Instead of that, I said it should be converted into loans. Then I consulted all the Heads of Departments and they agreed with my view.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): In the statement given it is stated that some of the Depressed Classes Co-operative Societies are going to be converted into stores. May I know which Co-operative Society of the Depressed Classes is going to be converted into a store.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I want notice.

Mr. B. M. Peter (*Latin Christians-Mattancheri*): May I know, Sir, what was the total amount for the Panchayat Department?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It will be about Rs. 5,000. If you want the exact figure I will give it later on.

**BATHING GHATS—CHALAKKUDI, PARIYARAM, ETC.—
CONSTRUCTION OF.**

92. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the difficulty experienced by people of Chalakkudi, Pariyaram and Melur, because of the absence of bathing ghats?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Construction of bathing ghats will add to the convenience of the people of these places. But this can be considered only as a secondary need of the people and will be attended to after the more urgent needs of the people in these places and in other parts of the State are satisfied.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that on the 3rd Sunday after the general elections one man was drowned while bathing because of the want of a bathing ghat?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Even where there is a bathing ghat people have been drowned.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Has the Minister made local enquiries in the matter?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There are various things to be looked into. When a river flows any number of bathing ghats will be useful. But unfortunately we must apportion the funds according to availability. Funds are not available. That is the difficulty. We don't question for a moment that it is not a necessity.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): At a distance of 7 miles from Kanjirappilly up to the Chalakkudi bridge, how many bathing public ghats are there? There is no bathing ghat. This is not only a local necessity, but is the necessity of the people of your favourite Trichur.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I want the House to realise that each bathing ghat costs about Rs. 1,000, and we can't devote all the money to one Panchayat alone.

CHALAKKUDI RAILWAY STATION ROAD - MAINTENANCE OF.

93. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Hon'ble Minister has seen the hopeless condition of the road from the Chalakkudi Railway Station to Western Chalakkudi;

(b) is there not provision in the budget for metalling this road;

(c) why is this work not taken up;

(d) has not the Hon'ble Minister received repeated representations about the urgency of this work?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The estimate for the work has been sanctioned and tenders have been called for. The work will be executed soon.

(d) Yes.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I may inform the hon'ble member that the work has already been handed over. I got the information that the work has been already handed over only after I had sent up the answer to this question.